

## Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 05446 241451Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 108097

R 241457Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8123

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T PARIS 05446

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR FT

SUBJECT: INR PAPER ON FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND  
ISSAS (FTAI)

REF: (A) STATE 36080; (B) PARIS 3756 (NOTAL)

1. WE FIND THE INR STUDY ON THE FTAI SOUND. WE MAKE  
THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO PROVIDE SOME NUANCES, AS SEEN  
FROM THE PARIS PERSPECTIVE, AND NOT OUT OF ANY BASIC  
DISAGREEMENT WITH THE STUDY ITSELF.

2. AS INDICATED IN REF B, THE SCHOOL BUS INCIDENT MAY  
LEAD TO THE ACCELERATION OF THE 18- TO 24-MONTH GOF  
TIMETABLE FOR FTAI INDEPENDENCE. THIS IS MORE LIKELY TO  
HAPPEN IF THE SOMALIS CONTINUE OR INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT  
FOR INSURGENCY AND TERRORISM (ESPECIALLY AGAINST FRENCH  
NATIONALS) AND LESS PROBABLE IF THE SOMALIS REDUCE SUCH

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 05446 241451Z

SUPPORT. LITTLE SIGNIFICANT BACKING EXISTS IN FRANCE FOR  
MAINTAINING THIS BASICALLY COLONIAL RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE

OF ITS GROWING COSTS, BOTH IN THE TERRITORY ITSELF AND TO FRANCE'S IMAGE IN AFRICA AND THE THIRD WORLD. WITH THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS ON THE HORIZON, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LOATH TO OFFER SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE ISSUE TO THE OPPOSITION BY DELAYING DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE IN THE FACE OF WIDESPREAD PUBLIC AND PRESS CRITICISM OF THE FRENCH PRESENCE THERE. THUS THE ALREADY WEAKENED FRENCH WILL TO REMAIN CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE FURTHER ERODED BY DOMESTIC POLITICS.

3. THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WILL ALSO AFFECT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HOPE TO KEEP A FRENCH BASE IN DJIBOUTI, A BASE INTENDED TO SERVE AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A FRENCH GUARANTEE OF THE TERRITORY'S INTEGRITY AND AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF FRANCE'S STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE QUESTION WHETHER IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE GENUINE DESIRE OF THE QUAI AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE THAT FRANCE DO ITS PART TO INSURE STABILITY IN THE HORN AND INDIAN OCEAN WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME THE EFFECTS OF INCREASED DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF FRANCE'S MAINTAINING A BASE ON AFRICAN SOIL. THE ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECENT PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT A FRENCH GUARANTEE IS NOT REALLY NECESSARY MAY SIGNIFY THAT FRANCE HAS LOST A KEY AFRICAN ALLY FAVORING A FRENCH BASE IN THE FTAI AFTER INDEPENDENCE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE A SITUATION IN WHICH THE FRENCH WOULD STAY IN DJIBOUTI IF THE ETHIOPIANS, AS NOW SEEMS LIKELY, JOIN THE SOMALIS IN LOUDLY DEMANDING THE DEPARTURE OF ALL FRENCH FORCES.

4. WE BELIEVE THE INR STUDY RIGHTLY UNDERLINES IN PARAGRAPH 15 THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN ETHIOPIAN PREEMPTIVE MOVE IF SOMALI SUBVERSION WERE TO BE PERCEIVED IN ADDIS AS LIKELY TO PRODUCE A PRO-SOMALI REGIME IN DJIBOUTI. WE WOULD SIMPLY ADD THAT SUCH A MOVE MIGHT BE COORDINATED SECRETLY WITH THE FRENCH WHO, HAVING DECIDED THEMSELVES TO LEAVE AND HAVING JUDGED THAT A CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA COULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE AVOIDED, MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT THEIR INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 05446 241451Z

TURNING OVER DJIBOUTI, AND THE CONSEQUENT MILITARY ADVANTAGE, TO ETHIOPIA.

RUSH

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PAPERS, INDEPENDENCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DEPENDENCIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PARIS05446  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760070-0615  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760219/aaaaaqgn.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 36080, 76 PARIS 3756  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INR PAPER ON FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS (FTAI)  
**TAGS:** PFOR, FT, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006